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PATENT Attorney Docket No.: S-3-1

on November 19, 2003

By Klih Myr.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NOV 1 9 2002

In re application of:

RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al.

Application No.: 09/512,742

Filed: February 24, 2000

For: METHODS FOR

ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Examiner: Lee S. Cohen
Art Unit: 3739

COMMUNICATION

OFFICAL

Sir:

Applicant received the Notice of Allowance and Notice of Allowability mailed November 14, 2003 for the subject application. The Notice of Allowability indicates the allowed claims are 52-59 and does not make reference to new claims 60-68 which were added in Applicant's Amendment dated August 20, 2003 (filed along with an RCE). Applicant also notes a copy of Form 1449 (also filed on Aug. 20, 2003) has not been returned with the Examiner's initials.

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the status of the allowed claims and a copy of the initialed Form 1449. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 736-0224.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard R. Batt Reg. No. 43,485

ArthroCare Corporation 680 Vaqueros Ave. Sumnyvate, CA 94085-3523 (408) 736-0224

PAGE 2/2 * RCVD AT 11/19/2003 7:21:48 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR;USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729392 * CSID:408 530 9143 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-16

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Number of pages being transmitted, including this page: 2

Dated: November 19, 2003

Katie Zarzana

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